

News

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A Promise to Keep Our Kids Safe

SAN BERNARDINO- To protect the safety of our children in California, Senator Connie Leyva has introduced SB 267 Keep our Kids Safe Act of 2015. The bill, which is also sponsored by the County of San Bernardino, will strengthen the ability of cities and counties to build upon existing protections from the offenders living in communities throughout the state.

Last year, the 4th District Court of Appeal, Division 3, ruled that local jurisdictions are preempted by state law from enacting further restrictions on the presence of sex offenders. The bill aims to restore local control of sex offenders after the Board of Supervisors reluctantly repealed a county ordinance that regulated where sex offenders could visit in unincorporated areas of the county. The proposed legislation is not intended to conflict with, but to supplement, existing law by allowing local municipalities the authority to impose the additional restrictions on the known locations where sex offenders may reside and frequent.

In the County of San Bernardino, there are over 3,400 registered sex offenders. The bill would allow local jurisdictions the ability to enact ordinances that restrict where sex offenders may be present without preemption of state law.

The Board of Supervisors is pleased with the leadership Senator Leyva demonstrated with the unveiling of the bill. Vice Chairman Robert Lovingood stated, "This is a good example of the state and county working together on solutions to protect families and children. This bill gives us greater local control, and that's a great thing."

Chairman James Ramos also applauded Senator Leyva saying, "The Board knows how to protect the most vulnerable people in our county. We want to return control back to local jurisdictions. I thank Senator Leyva for introducing this legislation to allow our local governments to make decisions affecting our residents."

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